

NEWS

From the Office of

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Rail Line to Big Bear Takes Step Forward

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – Efforts to build a passenger rail line to the Big Bear Valley took a step forward when the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) voted Wednesday to financially support a feasibility study.

“With traffic, the price of gas and an end to the economic excesses of the recent past, we believe a Los Angeles to Big Bear stay-cation via train will be an attractive option,” said Supervisor Neil Derry.

The \$285,744 proposal is a joint venture between SANBAG, the Southern California Association of Governments and the Inland Valley Development Agency. Although the IVDA has yet to formally adopt the study, the project is slated to begin Jan. 1, 2010.

“We look forward to working with the other agencies that support updating the study. Big Bear Lake is Southern California’s only four-season resort community and transportation options that make it easier for our visitors to get up the mountain are needed,” said Big Bear Lake Mayor Pro Tem Bill Jahn. **“We must come up with alternatives that are user and eco-friendly and safe – a rail project is all three.”**

Many believe that all-weather train service would increase the number of tourists visiting the area, especially during the winter ski season when the roads can be more treacherous, clogged or even closed due to inclement weather. The train is also viewed as a commuting alternative to those who live in the mountains, but must make the daily trek down to work.